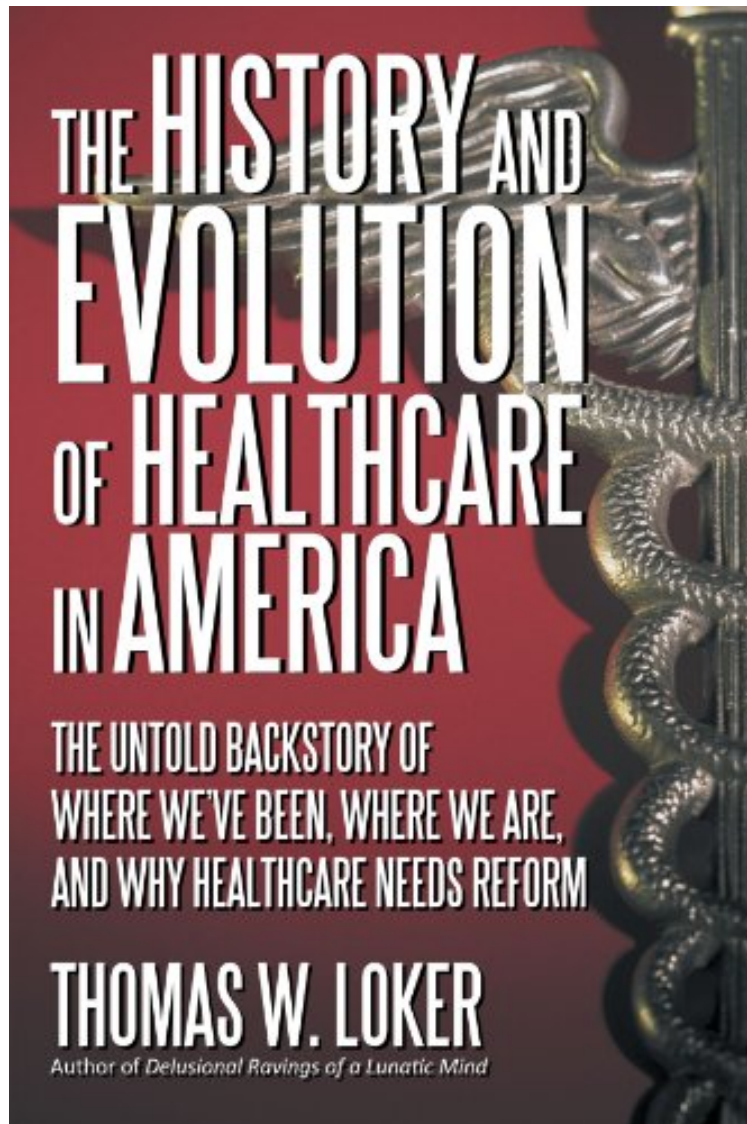


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## **The History and Evolution of Healthcare in America: The Untold Backstory of Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Why Healthcare Needs Reform**

*Thomas W. Loker*

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**Thomas W. Loker : The History and Evolution of Healthcare in America: The Untold Backstory of Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Why Healthcare Needs Reform** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History and Evolution of Healthcare in America: The Untold

## Backstory of Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Why Healthcare Needs Reform:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So it is good this individual made the effort to write the book *Steel Magnolia*. This may be self-published. It has printing issues in which many words run together. It does not do the academic thing of telling you what it is going to say, fully explaining it, and then recounting it to connect to meaning. That kind of writing helps with something that should be so comprehensive. It seems to be a collection of somewhat disconnected but interesting anecdotes for the most part. Still, I found no other book on this topic and it is one whose topic we need to be able to learn more about at this time. So it is good this individual made the effort to write the book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Educational and Interesting  
By Bibliophile  
I think the previous reviews sum up the book nicely. I thought this was an interesting read that demystifies the monster that we call "American Healthcare". It is easy to read for those that do not have a medical background and keeps those in the medical field interested. It combines history, policy, law, and trends with vignettes to illustrate and introduce the chapter. My Kindle version did have some formatting problems, particularly omitting spaces and combining words. Although this was annoying, please do not let it take away stars from a fantastic and educational text. I highly recommend it for those interested in our healthcare.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Broad Perspective on Healthcare and Efforts at Reform  
By Michael Rosenblum  
Here is a fast-reading but detailed perspective on the history of healthcare in the United States, from colonial times to the present. Loker takes us right up to the present in 2012, where we await the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the constitutionality of the PPACA of 2010, more widely known as Obamacare. We learn how far government involvement has come, from no national health programs in the early 20th century, to the advent of Medicare and Medicaid under Lyndon Baines Johnson. Now we await the high court ruling on "the mandate", a requirement that every citizen have health insurance. Loker uses fictionalized accounts of his ancestors, starting with their immigration from England in the 17th century, to introduce each section of the book. These vignettes paint the picture of the dismal state of healthcare in the past, when life expectancies were short, infants often died of infection, and women often died in childbirth. Each chapter covers a specific era, and ends with an addendum outlining the technological advances of the time. We learn of the emergence of patent medicines, and the astounding percentage of the population addicted to the morphine and cocaine contained in these mainly worthless products. Finally, sufficient advances occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to slowly make available real advances in medicine. In a novel approach to understanding the rising costs of healthcare in recent decades, the author takes us through the rise of private and government insurance coverage. He then uniquely gives us the perspective of the rising costs of care set against inflation and the expansion of the money supply. In the final chapters, Loker shifts into a timely discussion of the constitutional issues relevant to the Obamacare debate. This is not simply an election-year, Liberal vs. Conservative issue. More is at stake. The author expresses the hope that the flawed parts of this huge piece of legislation can be excised, and the much-needed reforms contained within the legislation can be permanently implemented.

From the beginning of mankind, health and health issues have played a major role in life, but the issues and care have evolved enormously from the time when the first settlers set foot in America to the present. In *The History and Evolution of Healthcare in America*, author Thomas W. Loker provides a historical perspective on the state of healthcare and offers fresh views on changes to Obamacare. Insightful and thorough, *The History and Evolution of Healthcare in America* offers a look at; what healthcare was like at the birth of the nation; how the practice of providing healthcare has changed for both caregivers and receivers; why the process has become so corrupt and expensive; what needs to happen to provide both choice and effective and efficient care for all; where we need to most focus efforts to get the biggest change; what is needed to get control over this out-of-control situation. Loker narrates a journey through the history of American healthcare—where we've been, how we arrived where we are today, and determine where we might need to go tomorrow. The history illustrates how parts of the problem have been solved in the past and helps us understand what might be necessary to solve our remaining problems in the future.

About the Author  
Thomas W. Loker served seven years as COO for a company that manages public-funded healthcare benefits for low-income and underserved populations. He has had a long career in the fields of science, technology, and healthcare-related industries. Loker also wrote *Delusional Ravings of a Lunatic Mind*. He currently lives in California. Visit him online at [www.loker.com](http://www.loker.com).